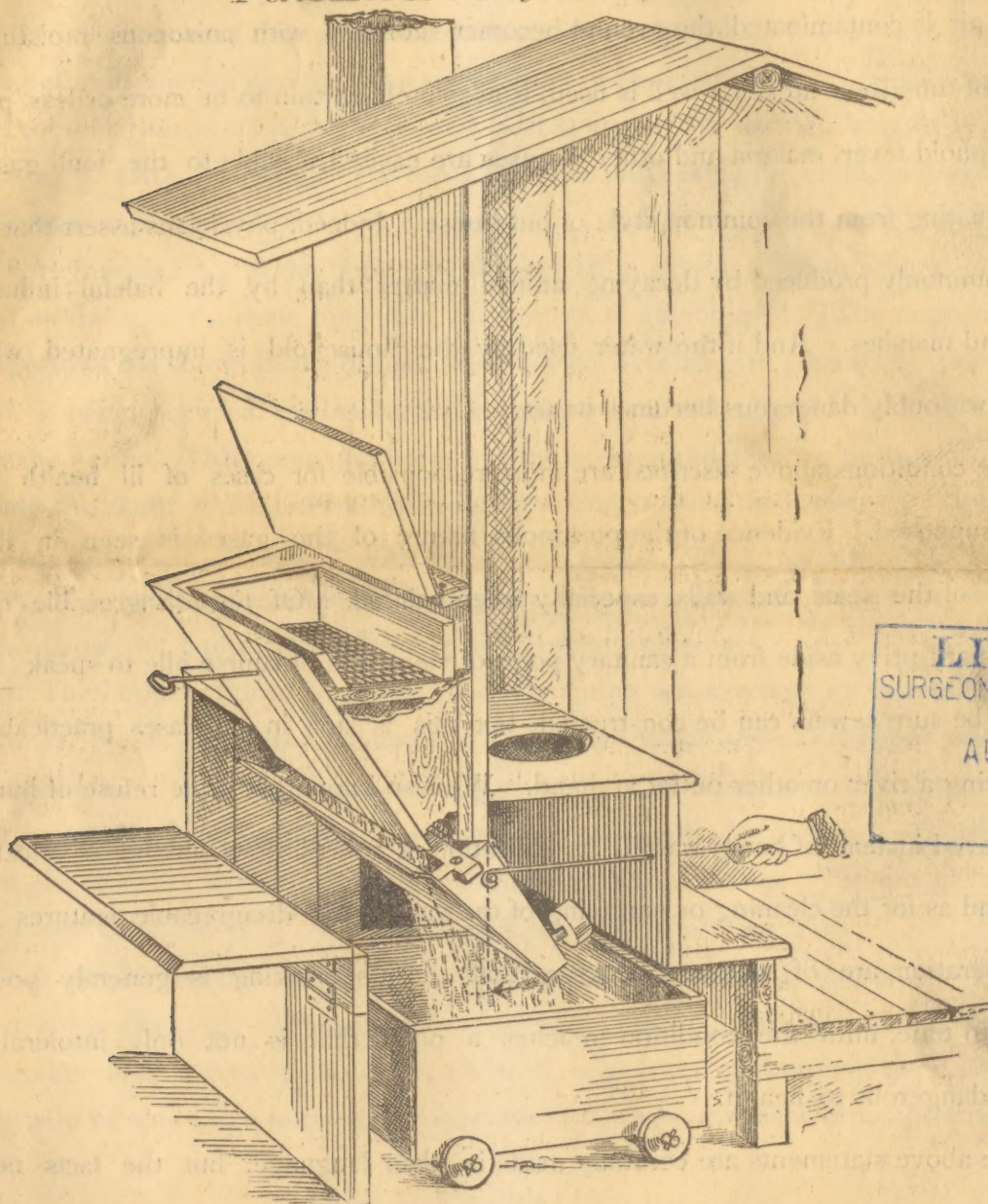


# BEHRENS' PATENT Earth Closet Attachment FOR OUT-HOUSES.

Patented May 6th, 1882.



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MANUFACTURED BY

## HENRY J. BEHRENS,

4th Ave., near 175th St.,

NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.



As the population of the country is increasing, and certain localities are becoming more densely settled, the question of the disposal of night soil is of the utmost importance to our health. Privies such as are generally in use outside of the watered and sewered districts are not only an intolerable nuisance, but a continual source of disease. The surrounding air is contaminated, the ground becomes saturated with poisonous moisture, and in course of time the water, if a well is used, is absolutely certain to be more or less polluted.

Typhoid fever, malaria and other diseases are easily traceable to the foul gases and odors emanating from the common style of out-house. Indeed, physicians assert that malaria is more commonly produced by decaying animal matter than by the baleful influence of swamps and marshes. And if the water used by the household is impregnated with this matter, how doubly dangerous becomes its use.

The conditions above described are more responsible for cases of ill health than is generally supposed. Evidence of the poisonous nature of the gases is seen in the discoloration of the seats and walls, especially when painted. Of the disagreeable qualities of the ordinary privy aside from a sanitary point of view, it is of course idle to speak.

To be sure sewers can be constructed, but this is not in all cases practicable, not always having a river or other outlet at hand. We also know that if the refuse of human life could be saved instead of being wasted, its utilization as a fertilizer would be of incalculable value. And as for the cleaning or emptying of the vaults, the disagreeable features attending the operation are of such a character, that the undertaking is generally postponed from time to time, until the condition reaches a point that is not only intolerable but absolutely dangerous to health.

The above statements are certainly made in plain language, but the facts need no elaboration. They are only too self-evident, and any remedy which abolishes entirely or even abates in a degree the evils mentioned, deserves consideration, and should invite investigation.



## DESCRIPTION.

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I beg leave to call your attention to my patent earth closet, to be attached to any form of privy and which is designed to overcome the difficulties encountered in the disposal of night soil, and also to abate the nuisances connected with the ordinary out-house.

The illustration on first page and following description show what my improvement consists of, the manner of applying and the method of operating it.

To the outside of the wall, behind the seat is attached a wooden hopper for the reception of ashes or earth, having near the top a sieve for pulverizing the earth or separating coals and clinkers from the ashes.

A narrow opening in the bottom of the hopper is closed when the closet is not in use by a slat on the top of a chute hinged to the bottom of the hopper. The chute is kept in a vertical position (as shown in the dotted lines in cut) by a weight projecting from the front face and is swung forward (as in sketch) by pulling in a rod attached to it and projecting through the "riser." This opens the bottom of the hopper and allows a portion of its contents to fall into the chute which directs them forward and spreads them over the bottom of the box placed beneath. The latter is mounted on wheels for convenience of removal.

What I manufacture is the machinery complete for each seat, ready to be screwed into the back of your out house, and consisting of the following pieces :

1. The hopper with hinged cover and containing arrangement for loosening the ashes or earth.
2. Sieve,
3. Cast iron cradle or frame into which sieve is dropped and provided with iron handle.
4. Chute hinged to hopper, made of wood and zinc.
5. Slat for opening and closing hopper.
6. Cast iron weight and rod and handle for pulling.

These are all the essential parts and are made of the best material and workmanship. The price is fifteen dollars, delivered on board of any railroad or boat in the City of New York.

I do not furnish the box as the pit or vault may be retained, but the box is of course the most convenient way for removing the refuse ; and in towns where the houses are so close together as to prevent the disposal of the manure in the land around them, and where a public system of removal is necessary, galvanized iron cases or cans with handles may be substituted.

The accompanying sketch with a box and a ventilating shaft merely represent a model privy. The door for enclosing chute and lower part of the hopper, and also the door for taking out the box, which you see in the sketch. I also leave to your own convenience and taste, as they are not of much importance.



# ADVANTAGES.

## **ECONOMY.**

Ashes, dry earth, sand, charcoal dust and sawdust all work equally well in my improvement. They are all good disinfectants, cost nothing and being so thoroughly mixed with the night soil by the operation of the apparatus, they absorb all the moisture and gases, and leave a dry, odorless product easily handled, and the value as manure unimpaired. By using ashes, which are excellently adapted for the purpose, there is no extra labor required, as they have to be sifted anyway. In this apparatus you have a perfectly clean way of doing it, as the sieve is absolutely dust proof. The merit of this method of sifting and disposing of ashes will be appreciated by householders as the unsightly ash heap, heretofore an intolerable nuisance, is not only utilized for a good purpose, but becomes an agent of positive benefit.

## **HEALTH.**

The moisture and gases being absorbed, the ground is not saturated: the water in the well remains pure, and the air we breathe is uncontaminated, there being no odor discernible, even inside the privy. A fruitful source of typhoid fever, malaria, etc., is rendered harmless.

## **CLEANING AND DISPOSAL.**

The product being in a dry, odorless state is easily handled. It is inoffensive and may be placed in the manure heap or distributed on the ground. And where a public system is adopted, covered cans may be used and carted away when filled, being replaced with empty ones. The operation of cleaning, usually contemplated with disgust, is rendered more agreeable, and our nostrils and those of our neighbors are not offended.

## **SIMPLICITY AND DURABILITY.**

This article is constructed in the best possible manner of the best materials and its operation is so simple that there is no liability whatever of its getting out of order. There are no nails used, screws and bolts taking their place. It will last a lifetime.

## **CHEAPNESS.**

The price of Fifteen (15) Dollars is certainly within the reach of every householder. The item of manure, let alone medical expense, will pay the cost of the improvement in one year; and when the discomfort and ill-health connected with the common out house are considered no one using the arrangement will begrudge the cost, not speaking of the satisfaction of having an out-house that is respectable. In the majority of cases, apparatus for one seat is sufficient.

Its utility and practical appliance is so self-evident that no endorsements are necessary on the part of the makers. But in view of the sanitary merits claimed for the invention, attention is respectfully called to the following letter from two eminent physicians who hold the position of sanitary inspectors of this city.

NEW YORK, October 16th, 1882.

MR. HENRY J. BEHRENS:

*Dear Sir:*—I have examined the earth closet patented by you and find it one of the best for the purpose intended. For use in private dwellings, villages and country places, it should replace the old form of privy vault. Its economy is also self-evident, affording the opportunity of utilizing all fecal matter for agricultural purposes. The necessity for using some method of this kind to prevent soil saturation and poisoning of wells is becoming more and more evident every day. This method of disposing of all effete material of this nature is most efficient.

MOREAU MORRIS, M. D.

To which Dr. Comfort of the Annexed District added:

"I fully concur in the above statement."

For further information apply personally or by mail to

**HENRY J. BEHRENS, 4th Ave., near 175th St.**